

ADLAIDE.—The following is an extract from a letter written by a builder settled in Adelaide:—"It is only recently we have had the Port and City Railway Act passed, and Mr. Hill is appointed the engineer; but as the rails and locomotives, &c. are to be obtained from England, it will be two years at least, under favourable circumstances, before the railway can be opened. There were sixty applicants for Mr. Hill's appointment, so you may judge how little hope one has of professional employment. I am led to expect work when the times mend, but for the last two months business has been quite stagnant, owing to the excitement caused by the gold diggings at Melbourne and Sydney. Some hundreds of people are gone to these places from Adelaide, and many will repent it when too late, as the great majority are unfit for the hardships they go through, and the few alone make rapid fortunes; still the result will be, it is expected, eventually beneficial to Adelaide, as people will come out from England and elsewhere by thousands, bringing capital, and settling in this colony away from the excitement of 'the diggings,' and yet near enough to profit by the operations of the gold mania."—C. M. D.

IRON FOR THE BABIES.—Among the various household uses to which iron is applied, I am not aware that it is employed in the construction of children's "bassinetts," or chaises. Is it not possible to make an iron or brass wire chaise-cot, at once light and durable and cheap, and not (like wood or wicker) a harbour for unpleasant things? In hot countries, such articles would be a desideratum. It is somewhere recorded, that an Australian mother, destitute of female servants, was obliged to place her infant under a hen-coop, whilst engaged in house duties. In such a predicament, a wire cot, mounted on wheels of somewhat large circumference, so as to be moved with the gentlest of touches, would be of great service, answering like Goldsmith's bureau, a two-fold purpose, and made

"A double debt to pay,
A bed by night," a baby-chaise "by day."

"Pretty Poll" (parrot) and "pretty Dick" (canary) are lodged in brilliant cages, which rival the brightness of the yellow plumage of the latter, whilst their namesakes, unfeathered bipeds, baby Mary and Richard, submit to the accommodation of wicker. If this suggestion be of any use to those of your numerous readers who are cunning in the craft of iron, in sheet, rod, and wire, it is at their service.—**MONOTECT.**

KILKENNY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The May meeting of this society was held on Saturday week, and was rendered more attractive than usual by the exhibition of a collection of ancient ecclesiastical and other bells, sent for the occasion by Mr. T. L. Cooke, Parsonstown, from his Museum of Irish antiquities, and by the exposition of a portion of the ancient tapestry from Kilkenny Castle. The chair was taken by General McDonald. A number of new members were elected, and various donations made and antiquities exhibited. An interesting paper, by Mr. Cooke, on ancient bells, was then read. This paper, which describes the bells exhibited as "the remains of seven bells of Irish Christian saints; also some spherical and pear-shaped crotals of Pagan times, some sheep-bells of the sixteenth century, and some others," is reported, at length, in the *Kilkenny Moderator*, of the 5th instant.

BRUSSELS.—The new church of St. Mary, which has been commenced at the end of the Rue Royale Extérieure, where the roads diverge, appears at nearly a stand-still, as only one man was seen working at it about a fortnight since. The design is Byzantine, surmounted by a dome: four lesser circular erections, with the usual open galleries at the summit, complete the form of the Greek cross for the entire edifice. These are built to the roofs, but the central portion has not yet attained half the proposed height. A bazaar has been opened for the sale of contributed articles towards the fund for completing the church.

THE SHOP SUN-BLIND NOISANCE.—We continue to receive complaints and appeals from sufferers and others regarding this serious nuisance. The public feeling is evidently excited against it, and we trust that those aggrieved will no longer endure, in silence, injury and peril so easily obviated by a very little more consideration, or a very little less selfish indifference, on the part of shopkeepers, whether commissioners of pavements or not. One correspondent, "G. G. S." complains that a lady of his acquaintance was lately knocked down by one of these dangerous articles, and being in delicate health the only wonder is that she was not killed, in which event we should like to know what a court of justice or a coroner's inquest would have decided on the point. As it is, we would caution shopkeepers that they are responsible, in the eye of the law, even for damages thus sustained, whether to person or babiliment, whatever police regulations—or want of regulation rather—may fail to do on the contrary. It has, on more than one occasion, been almost coolly insinuated, in our own case, that we had no right either to be a little above the average London stature, or to risk damage thereby to the awning-tackle with which we came in contact. The experience of even ladies, however, shows, as it now appears, (what we have also frequently remarked), that some at least of these nuisances are below even the average female stature, whereas the proprietors must be compelled to hoist every part of them clear, not only of the heads, but of the opened umbrellas, of all passers by; and nothing short of 8 feet will do this. A few public-spirited sufferers by damaged hats, &c. ought to try the question in the meantime in the courts of law, and so excite the attention of the authorities, and the feeling of the nuisance-committees, in the public behalf.

LECTURE ON ARCHITECTURE AT EXETER.—Last week Mr. Ashworth delivered a lecture at the Athenæum on "Old English Castellated and Domestic Architecture." It commenced with a review of the brick castles of the fifteenth century; spacious quadrangles, with imposing "tower gateways," sometimes defended by drawbridge and moat, but less *bastille-like* in aspect than the structures of the preceding century. Amongst the subjects illustrated were Herstmonceux, Sussex, dating 1440; Oxburgh Hall, Norfolk, 1482. Following this style, we have Hampton Court Palace (Wolsey's), with its five spacious courts (as originally erected), the gateway towers becoming ornamental features, and in their connecting curtain displaying a rich oriel window, with armorial bearings in its lower panels, overhanging the archway of entrance, instead of a portcullis and machicolation. The adoption of Italian architecture in England was shown in the palace of the Protector Somerset (old Somerset House) designed by John of Padua, followed by many noble mansions of whimsical design, the works of John Thorpe and others.

STAINED GLASS IN CHELSEA CHURCH.—The upper half of the east window in, what must still be called, New Chelsea Church, has been filled with stained glass, executed by Mr. Gibbs. The window is seven lights in width: some of the lights contain single figures, the whole size of the compartment, while others consist of groups of smaller figures, presenting incidents in the life of our Saviour, an arrangement which in the present condition of the window does not produce a satisfactory result. When the whole design is made out it may be better. The completion of the work, we understand, is deferred for want of funds. In a parish containing so many spirited and well-to-do inhabitants, however, as Chelsea, there can surely be no difficulty in raising sufficient money to finish the window. The interior of the church requires a little attention: the walls are very unsightly.

NEW CHURCH IN ST. PANCRAZ.—The chief stone of the new church of St. Matthew, Oakley-square, Bedford New Town, was laid on the 6th inst. by Lord John Russell, assisted by the architect, Mr. John Johnson, and the builder, Mr. Kelk. The edifice is estimated to cost 7,300*l.*, and will contain accommodation for 1,300 persons.

IMPROVE THE PUBLIC TASTE.—Inter-course with the manufacturers, merchants, and salesmen of England (the most intelligent of the whole), convinces me of the importance of endeavouring to cultivate the public taste. All acknowledge the hopeless condition of the manufacturers and other adventurers who cater for the public taste, and say, that in its present degraded and unsettled state every appeal to it is attended with uncertainty, often with ruinous consequences. The markets are all led by caprice, and not by taste, and the schools of design if they increase the numbers and the excellency of the producers, rather augment than lessen the evil, since no means are adopted to advance the taste of those they look up to, to appreciate and reward their productions and their labours. This is so glaring a fact that I am surprised none of the leading spirits of the day direct their attention to it. So far from there being any promise of amendment, there is an evident verging to a worse condition. Further efforts should be made.—E. V. R.

HOSPITALS IN CROWDED LOCALITIES.—"A Surveyor" draws attention to the fact that an hospital for sick children has been formed in Great Ormond-street, notwithstanding a protest by the inhabitants of St. George the Martyr against it. The creation of such a nuisance to a crowded district, in these days of railway facilities, he rightly regards as quite inexcusable, more especially when the hindrance thus opposed to the restoration of the children themselves to health is considered. Intramural hospitals for accidents and casual ailments are unobjectionable, but for disease they are, as a rule, only a little less objectionable than their natural associate, intramural graveyards. The first element in the cure of disease is good fresh air, and our metropolitan termini point the way to that.

INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS.—The regular general meeting of members of this institution was held on the 28th ult. at Birmingham, Mr. R. Stephenson in the chair, when papers were read and discussed,—“On a continuous expansion steam engine,” by Mr. James Samuel, of London; on “a new mode of measuring high temperatures,” by Mr. John Wilson, Lancashire; on “an experimental investigation of the expansive working of steam in locomotive engines,” by Mr. D. K. Clarke, of Edinburgh; and on Long’s, of London, “new portable lifting machine,” by Mr. J. E. McConnell, of Wolverton. In the library some other inventions were exhibited.

A VOICE FROM THE PARKS.—Permit me to suggest the propriety of having the iron framework of the seats covered with a slab of wood well screwed down upon the same: if the iron forming the seat portion were done away with altogether, and wood substituted, an improvement would be effected. Although not unfavourable to “cold applications,” I very much question the salubrity of iron for the purposes of a seat. The seats alluded to are of a very massive iron construction. Let me again urge upon the Commissioners of Works the paramount necessity of the formation of halting-places for both sexes in the parks. They are in many respects entitled to praise for the pathways formed intersecting our parks in all directions, and affording great facilities for foot passengers.—**A DISTRICT SURVEYOR.**

HEREFORD LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTION.—At a recent *soirée* of this Institution, the Rev. R. L. Freer, the president, exhibited a rubbing of a monumental brass, by Hardman, of Birmingham, placed by Mr. Freer in Yazor church, to the memory of the founder. The president also made some remarks on sepulchral brasses, and their revival in the present day. A paper was afterwards read by Mr. C. T. Bodenham, of Rotherwas, “On Subjects relating to Herefordshire.”

NEW SCHOOL IN NORWOOD-LANE.—The chief stone of a school for children, of Westmoreland parents, was laid on Wednesday-week, in Norwood-lane, near the Tulse-hill Hotel, London, by the Hon. Colonel Lowther, M.P., in the absence of the Earl of Londale.